

14 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs
FROM: Chief, FBIS
SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. It should be noted that this regular monthly issuance has been re-titled "Letter of Information," which is believed to be more accurately descriptive of its content and purpose. [redacted]

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2. FBIS provided extensive special support to the U.S. summit delegation in Paris and consumers in Washington during the period surrounding the U-2 incident, the abortive summit meeting, and the Security Council debate:

a. Initial world reaction to the U-2 incident was covered on the FBIS Wire in extensive textual items as well as in an Editorial Branch roundup of noncommunist comment and an RPB report on Moscow and Peking propaganda treatment.

b. In the week before the summit meeting, RPB prepared two special memoranda in support of preparations for the anticipated talks: (1) a memorandum for Dr. Sherman Kent [redacted] on propaganda intimations that the USSR might propose an official agreement on coexistence, and (2) a report on the content of communist bloc clandestine broadcasts, for SA/CCA; Dr. Kent was provided with a copy of this report.

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c. Beginning 12 May and until the breakup of the conference, the London Bureau filed [redacted] all key Soviet and satellite materials related to summit issues. Other bureaus filed [redacted] (through Washington and London) texts of major pronouncements by noncommunist world leaders.

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d. Also beginning 12 May, RPB sent daily classified cables [redacted] analyzing relevant Soviet and other bloc propaganda. A final brier analysis was telephoned to OCI on 19 May for inclusion in an Agency support cable to the President's party in Lisbon.

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e. Extensive Editorial Branch roundups of noncommunist reaction to the rupture of the conference were filed [redacted] disseminated to field bureaus for transmittal to local consumers, and run on the FBIS Wire on 17, 18, and 19 May.

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f. On 17 May RPB prepared a memorandum for the Director on the degree of hardening in Soviet propaganda in the wake of the summit developments. On 18 May an analysis of the tenor of Soviet output was run on the Wire.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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g. A summation of Soviet domestic media's treatment of the President's TV speech and Ambassador Lodge's Security Council speeches was prepared by RPB on 27 May for forwarding to the White House. Information from USIA, RFE, and Radio Liberty on the extent to which these speeches were jammed was included. A subsequent report analyzed the manner in which the speeches were handled in Soviet domestic media.

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3. Developments on the African Project during the month:

a. All project plans were completed to the extent possible at this time.

b. Explanations of the purpose of the proposed FBIS monitoring station to the Prime Minister of Nigeria by the Colonial Office and the BBC representatives in London appear to have been satisfactory. Prime Minister Balewa indicated that he would reopen the matter with the Council of Ministers upon his return to Lagos, giving the Colonial Office hope that significant progress had been made toward agreement.

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4. The Key West monitoring post began limited operation on 11 May and fullscale operation on 16 May. Fifteen Havana radio and nine TV programs are being recorded daily by the Post for mailing to the East Coast Bureau for processing. The Post also processes and wirefiles to Headquarters a Radio Mambi commentary, averaging about one thousand words per day. This station, which has been shown to be the most virulent of Cuba's stations, is among the worst in international personal vilification. Cadena Oriental, a large Cuban network which carries strongly leftist commentaries, also is monitored regularly at Key West. Preliminary efforts indicate a high potential of valuable material from this post.

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5. FBIS's service to the 10-nation Geneva disarmament talks was resumed on 31 May in anticipation of the reconvening of the talks on 7 June. Analyses of bloc propaganda are being furnished by RPB, with texts of key bloc items filed directly to Geneva by the London Bureau.

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6. The intelligence community's interest in Premier Khrushchev's 5 May speech to the USSR Supreme Soviet was reflected in the requests levied on FBIS for early distribution of the text of the speech. Some 160 advance copies of the Daily Report Supplement containing the speech were distributed on 6 May to USIB components and other government consumers. Extra wire copies of the speech were furnished a number of consumers in advance of the printed text.

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8. The sixteenth edition of the four-volume Broadcasting Stations of the World was completed and turned over to the printer on 1 June. A time limit of 90 days was requested for completion of the printing. [redacted]

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50X1

9. Of 259 items included in OCI's Current Intelligence Digest during the month, 70 (27 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [redacted]

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10. A special IBM machine run of observed radio transmitters by call sign and by country was made by Radio Stations Branch of OCR at the request of FBIS. This material cannot be duplicated because of impending deactivation of RSB. Therefore, the material, amounting to 10 large volumes, was bound before pouching to the major field bureaus. [redacted]

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11. BBC has been asked to forward all their future requests for continuing radio coverage, or which affect the processing of copy, to FBIS Headquarters rather than directly to the bureau concerned. The Operations Officer will be responsible for reviewing and coordinating these requirements with the bureaus. This system will provide a central record of BBC requests and enable them to be better coordinated with bureau capabilities and with related Headquarters requirements. BBC can, however, forward requests for a specific single item of copy or for coverage of a single broadcast for a day or so, where a speedy response is required, directly to the bureaus concerned. Bureaus are therefore requested not to communicate directly with BBC regarding coordination of regular coverage but, instead, to address such messages to the Field Operations Staff for forwarding to BBC. [redacted]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [redacted]

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1. Radio Propaganda Reports (Responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Soviet Outer-Space Projects and Programming: December 1959 - April 1960," the fifth in a series for OSI/GMD [redacted]

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b. "Soviet Civil Defense Training: New 'Fourth Stage' in Preparation," the sixth in a series for NIC [redacted]

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c. "The Sino-Soviet Lenin Anniversary Polemic" [redacted] contributions from analysts)

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2. In addition to the items on the U-2 and the summit, RPB prepared two items for the FBIS Wire on propaganda indications of a shakeup in the Soviet military leadership and shifts in the standing of top Soviet party leaders.

3. The following are among the Radio Propaganda Reports projected for late June and early July (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. The evolution of Khrushchev's position on the transition to communism [redacted] 50X1

b. Review of Soviet propaganda on agriculture [redacted] 50X1

c. "Right opportunist" opposition to the commune program in the Chinese Communist Party--responding to an OCI request for analyses of CCP "rightist" views [redacted] 50X1

4. Field Support of the Radio Propaganda Branch

a. The prompt responses from the London, Mediterranean, and Hokkaido Bureaus to the branch's several requests for details about Soviet domestic media's treatment of the President's TV address and Ambassador Lodge's U.N. speeches were helpful in meeting two requests from the Director for memoranda on the subject.

b. A German Bureau FYI [redacted] on the curious silence in the East German press about a succession of speeches by top GDR leaders is a good example of the kind of special reporting from the field that can be used here to advantage. This FYI was used as the basis for a "Comment on Bloc Propaganda" item on the Wire. 50X1

c. The Okinawa Bureau's coverage of the recent Chinese rallies included FYIs regarding treatment of the Taiwan issue that were particularly useful to RPB. In support of the close watch being maintained for any propaganda indications of new CPR actions in the area, the Bureau is urged to make certain that the weekly listings of CPR regional broadcast topics include all items about Taiwan or the offshore islands, regardless of length. When a tally of regional material on some other subject includes items that mention the Taiwan issue, even in passing, this fact should be noted. In 1958 the broadcasts from Hangchow and Foochow proved to be among the best sources of propaganda indications of impending crisis.

d. All bureaus are reminded of the standing procedure for flagging "copy to RPB" any item from a nonbloc source that contains information of possible significance for the analysis of bloc affairs. Only material from bloc (and Yugoslav) media is routinely distributed to the branch.

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Items from nonbloc sources reach the branch only if specially flagged. A good example of an item properly flagged for RPB's attention was [redacted] of 5 May, a PTI item from Bombay reporting a clash between Soviet and Chinese delegates to the Conakry Asian-African Solidarity Conference. This clash was, of course, never directly acknowledged in bloc media, but the PTI report fit well with subtle indications of differences in Moscow's and Peking's own propaganda.

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e. Attention is called to the sixth in a series of semiannual Radio Propaganda Reports on Soviet civil defense training, published 24 May in response to a standing request from the National Indications Center. Bureaus covering Soviet central and regional media are reminded of the continuing watch being maintained for any change in the pattern of general silence about civil defense matters in all media except DOSAAF's specialized publications. To date, the central media have said virtually nothing on the subject, and items filed from regional radios have been very sparse. The DOSAAF press indicates that it is not unusual for series of broadcasts to be devoted to civil defense training, although these may be for the most part on local wired networks and hence unmonitorable. It would seem, however, that there have also been regionally broadcast programs that did not appear on regularly monitored shows: For example, a 19 November 1959 talk on civil defense over the Stalingrad radio was announced as one of a series, but no others in the series were received. Any effort that can be made to follow up on such serial broadcasts will be appreciated.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENTGeneral

1. Summarization provides a means for the compression of copy without loss of essence. It is an appropriate and useful device to eliminate unnecessary verbiage. However the designation "summary" or "summary with quotations" should not be used to permit the omission of a very few non-essential phrases from what is essentially a full text or excerpt. When only a few phrases can be omitted without injury to the sense of the item, it should be texted in full, or made into an excerpt with all phrases included. When considerable portions can be compressed through paraphrase, this should be done and the item labeled "summary." With pertinent sections quoted verbatim it would become a "summary with quotations."

2. Rapid copy handling by the bureaus and close field-headquarters coordination enabled the Daily Report to publish some important materials on the U-2 incident and the summit meeting which were broadcast fairly late on the date of publication. Because of the widespread interest in Khrushchev's 5 May speech to the Supreme Soviet, special arrangements were made with PSD to provide advance copies of the Daily Report Supplement containing the speech for high-level consumers in Washington.

3. As a result of the unusually heavy flow of Soviet and Satellite copy on the summit and related topics, the USSR/EE Daily Report was unable to publish some items, particularly from press scrutiny, which normally would have been carried. Much of this material, however, was forwarded directly to consumers in raw copy form. By the end of the month editors were able to resume selection according to normal criteria.

German Bureau

Awkward phraseology persists in the German press reviews and could be corrected by more careful editing. The general format and length of the reviews is satisfactory.

Panama Post

The post did a commendable job of handling the preelection speeches and propaganda in Panama as well as the somewhat scattered and belated election returns. The use of FYIs is appreciated and encouraged.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. Hokkaido Bureau is to be commended for its work in quickly developing Soviet regional radio schedules for BIS. These complete and well-prepared schedules are an excellent example of cooperation between monitor, engineer, and editor.

U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D

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2. In filing station announcements, program changes, etc., monitors and editors should be careful to list exact times and wavelengths announced by the radio station. Conversions in times or wavelengths may be listed parenthetically but should be clearly indicated when done. This does not apply to items filed directly by cruising monitors.

3. It is becoming increasingly important, especially in communist countries, to determine the name of the body responsible for broadcasting such as "Oblast Radio Committee," "Broadcasting Department," etc. Whenever monitors or editors note such information it should be given to the cruising monitor for mailing to the Broadcast Information Section.

4. Fifty of the shortwave multicouplers ordered in FY 59 from the CGS Laboratories have been received and released for shipment to the bureaus. The remaining sixty units, plus six spare parts kits ordered in FY 60, are scheduled for delivery in late June 1960.

5. Four construction projects for the Okinawa Bureau will be undertaken soon. The addition to the operations building and the new security fence will probably be covered in one contract. Likewise, the bedroom additions to eight housing units and the replacement of window sash in the club-shelter-BOQ will probably be covered under one contract. All contracts are scheduled for signing around mid-June.

6. After six weeks of negotiations with the low bidder, Reliance Enterprises of Santa Rosa, the GSA has finally approved the plans for replacement of the defective refrigerant condenser. The contractor has ordered materials and equipment needed. The installation should be operative again in early July. In the meantime the Bureau is experiencing some unusually hot weather.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Kurdish monitor [] reported for duty at the Mediterranean Bureau 31 May, after two years of effort to recruit a monitor with a Kurdish language capability.

STAT

2. In accordance with Paragraph 7 of [] Bureau Chiefs may approve S.F. No. 71 for military leave following receipt of approval by the Chief, FBIS. A copy of the approving message should be forwarded to the Payroll Branch, Fiscal Division, together with the T&A, S.F. No. 71 and copy of military orders.

STAT

3. The following FBIS Regulatory issuances were released during the month of May:

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STAT

PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. New Employees

Assignment

Editor
Edit. Br.

Analyst
RPB

Editor
Edit Br.

Clerk-Typist
Edit. Br.

STAT

2. Reassignments

From

Editor
German Bur.

Teletype Supv.
Edit. Br.

To

Editor
London Bur.

Teletype Supv.
Tokyo Bur.

STAT

3. Separations

From

Analyst, RPB

Analyst, RPB

Editor, Edit. Br.

Teletypist. Edit. Br.

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ROGER G. SEELY

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